

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes including those noted in the Official Action to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 8 correcting the spelling of the word "prior" to address the drawing objection noted in the Official Action. *done*

Claims 1-23 were previously pending in the application. New claims 24-26 are added. Therefore, claims 1-26 are presented for consideration. Claims 4, 8, 13, 18 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 3, 7, 12, 17, 21 and 23.

Claims 1, 10 and 15 are amended to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 6, 9 and 20 are rejected as anticipated by ISOMURA JP 63-187492.

Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection are respectfully requested because the reference does not disclose or suggest a non-deformable member for preventing scratches of the disk media projects from an edge portion of the disk insertion and discharge slot as recited in claim 6 of the present application. Claim 20 includes a similar recitation and provides a substantially rigid member for preventing scratches of the disk

medium projects from an edge portion of a disk insertion and discharge slot.

ISOMURA discloses felt pad members 21B, 22B that extend from dust proof mechanisms 21, 22. Accordingly, the member for preventing scratches of ISOMURA is not only deformable (since it is made out of felt) but also extends from the dust proof mechanism and does not project from an edge portion of the disk insertion and discharge slot.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection are respectfully requested. Claim 9 depends from claim 6 and further defines the invention and is also believed patentable for ISOMURA.

Claims 1, 10 and 15 are rejected as unpatentable over KATO JP 2000-298906 in view of Applicants disclosed prior art Figure 5. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of Japanese Priority Document 2000-314199 to perfect the claim to priority and remove KATO as a prior art reference.

Claims 2, 5, 11, 14, 16 and 19 are rejected as unpatentable over KATO in view of Applicants disclosed prior art and further in view of ISOMURA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 5, 11, 14, 16 and 19 depend from one of claims 1, 10 and 15 respectively. As set forth above regarding

these claims, perfecting a claim to priority removes KATO as a prior art reference. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 11, 14, 16 and 19 are believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Since claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 20 and 21 are indicted as generic in the Official Action of October 8, 2003 and since these claims are believed allowable, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

New claims 24-26 are added and depend from one of claims 1, 10 and 15 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art. In addition, these claims recite that the plural slits are provided between ends of the felt member.

In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

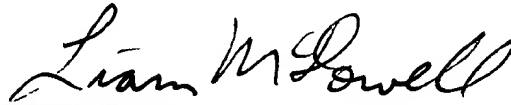
Please charge the fee of \$54.00 for the extra three dependent claims are added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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